



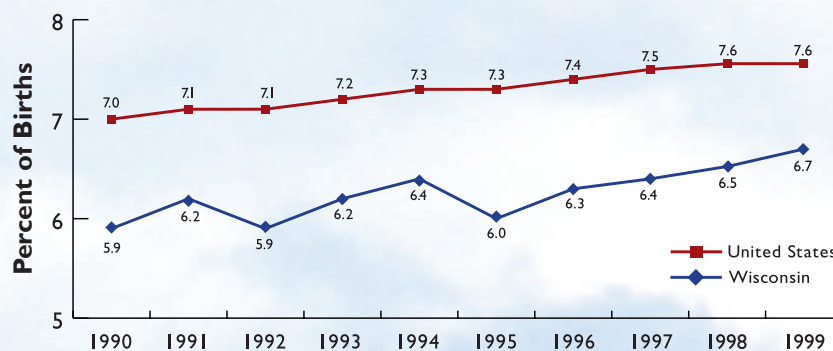
## Major Trends

DHFS began this strategic planning effort in late 1999 by conducting an analysis of social and population trends that may have an impact on the service needs of Wisconsin citizens. Below are a few of the identified trends that may have an impact on future Department activities.

### Low Birthweight:

The low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) rate for Wisconsin has increased from 5.9 percent of all births in 1990 to 6.7 percent in 1999. The national low birthweight rate has increased from 7 percent to 7.6 percent. Wisconsin has had a consistently lower rate of low birthweight than the overall U.S.

**Low Birthweight, Wisconsin and the U.S. 1990-1999**



### Child Abuse and Neglect:

The rate of child abuse and neglect victimization (substantiated cases plus cases in which abuse/neglect was found likely to occur) in Wisconsin decreased from 12.5 per 1000 children in 1998 to 10.7 per 1000 children in 1999. This reflects a decreasing trend in the rate of child abuse and neglect beginning in 1996.

**Rate of Child Abuse and Neglect Victimization per 1000 Children Under Age 18 Years of Age, Wisconsin and the U.S.**

